

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Supplemental Response to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2005, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response was set, expiring on November 8, 2005. This Supplemental Response supplements the Applicants' response filed on January 9, 2006, in which arguments for allowability were presented and wherein claims 4, 7, 12, and 14 were amended into independent claim format.

Twenty-three (23) claims, including six (6) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claims 6, 8, 13, 15 and 17 are currently amended into independent claim format, and claims 1-3, 10-11, 16 and 18-23 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. Enclosed is our check to cover the fee for an additional one-month extension of time to February 8, 2006, and three (3) additional independent claims. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 1-23 remain pending.

1. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's conclusion that the subject matter of claims 4-9, 12-15, and 17 is allowable, as noted in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. As noted above, Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 12, and 14 into independent claim format to include all the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims in their response led on January 9, 2006. Claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17 are currently amended into independent claim format to include all the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims herewith.

Applicants wish to clarify that the amendments to claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17 are made for purposes of placing the claims in condition for allowance, and not in response to any rejections made based on cited art. Because a dependent claim as a matter of law inherently contains all of the limitations of its respective independent claim, and any intervening claims, the amendments to claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17 do not additionally narrow the scope of claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17 in any manner. The amendments to claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17, now in

13, 15, and 17 as originally filed. Indeed, Applicants submit that no substantive limitations have been added to the amended claims 6, 8, 13, 15, and 17. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel should arise from these amendments.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, at paragraph 3, claims 1-3, 10-11, 16, and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Zheng et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,418,862), hereinafter *Zheng*.

Claims 1-3, 10-11, 16, and 18-23 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to these claims are rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

3. Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 4-9, 12-15, and 17. In light of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that all pending claims 4-9, 12-15, and 17 are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and allow all pending claims. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Armentrout by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, the Examiner is further encouraged to contact Mr. Armentrout by telephone to expediently correct such informalities.

Application No. 10/800,954  
Reply to Office Action dated August 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,  
Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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